

Not to drink and drive.  
If only they had told him, Mom.  
I would still be alive.

My breath is getting shorter, Mom.  
I'm becoming very scared.  
Pleased don't cry for me, Mom  
When I needed you  
You were always there.  
I have one last question, Mom  
Before I say goodbye.  
I didn't drink and drive  
So why am I the one to die?

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL J. "RUSTY"  
HAMMER

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2001*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer as he ends his tenure as president and CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Rusty's impressive tenure, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this truly remarkable citizen of Sacramento.

Rusty came to the Sacramento Metro Chamber in 1994 and after 7 years has transformed the chamber into an economically viable and influential organization. Today the Sacramento Metro Chamber is the largest and most diverse chamber in northern California, boasting a membership over 3,000. In addition, the Sacramento Metro Chamber is now represented in all six counties in the Sacramento region, a truly admirable feat.

To my colleagues here in the House of Representatives, perhaps one of the most visible accomplishments of the Sacramento Metro Chamber is the annual Cap-to-Cap trip. Through this important program, over 200 business leaders from the Sacramento region come to Washington, DC, each spring to meet with leaders of the Federal Government to raise awareness of the region's most important issues. Since 1994, under the direction of Rusty and his colleagues in the chamber, the level of participation in Cap-to-Cap has nearly doubled. I feel that this is a true testament to Rusty's dedication and enthusiasm for the Sacramento region.

In addition to the Cap-to-Cap trip, Rusty has also been the driving force behind numerous projects and events at the Sacramento Metro Chamber that have continued to propel the chamber to new heights. One in particular that deserves special recognition is "Perspectives", an annual speakers series hosted in Sacramento involving influential national and international leaders. Through Rusty's tireless efforts, this program has become one of the most important forums for discussions about the future and direction of the Sacramento region.

While I was saddened as both a friend and a colleague to learn of Rusty's departure to become president of the Los Angeles Metro Chamber, I fully believe that Sacramento's loss is Los Angeles's gain. Rusty's commitment to serving his community is a genuine inspiration and example to his fellow citizens and will be a wonderful addition to the Los Angeles region.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Rusty Hammer's friends and family gather to reflect on his time

with the Sacramento Metro Chamber, I am privileged to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. His successes are unparalleled, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to recognize his many contributions to Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing my friend Rusty continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE CLOVIS SENIOR  
CENTER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Clovis Senior Center for their work to improve the lives of senior citizens living in California's Central Valley.

The Clovis Senior Center began providing services over 25 years ago, when they first received Federal aid for senior programs. The actual Clovis Senior Center facility was built 19 years ago. Lynn Bawdon has served as director of the Clovis Senior Center for the past 20 years. The center provides a wide range of programs, including nutrition advice, income tax assistance, social security inquiries, medical information, and general adult information.

The goal of the Clovis Senior Center is to keep seniors independent and living in their own homes, while providing for their own needs. The center is ranked among the top 10 multisite centers in the State. They actively pursue assistance from the State to continue providing the highest level of assistance for seniors.

The Clovis Senior Center is an 11,000 square foot facility that is comprised of a central multipurpose room, two large classrooms, a commercial kitchen, two large restrooms, and two average sized restrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Clovis Senior Center for their valuable assistance to the local senior community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Clovis Senior Center many more years of continued success.

BALKANS YOUTH LINK PROJECT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of a budding organization dedicated to the empowerment and unity of youth throughout the Balkan region.

The Balkans Youth Link has emerged from the devastation of war to create a positive future for young people in that region. This San Francisco-based nonprofit organization, which was founded by a constituent of mine, Frederica Bunge, provides support to youth leaders of the Balkans who are working to develop a truly free society. These strive for openness and understanding in a place where ethnic conflict has long challenged hopes for peace.

Since its inception in late 1999, Balkans Youth Link has accomplished many important projects worthy of our attention. When the

conflict in Kosovo ended, two trauma recovery missions sent teams to rural and urban areas in order to create self-support groups, helping teachers recover from their own trauma and enabling them to give their students a renewed interest in learning.

Last summer, Youth Link 2000, the first international public debate camp, which was conceived and directed by Enrion Veliaj, successfully trained a diverse group of young people from Kosovo in the techniques of public debate. There the participants gained a broad understanding of the importance of free speech, diversity of ideas, and respect for human rights.

Also during the summer of 2000, a love of music and a desire for peace united in New York City a group of Serb, Croat, and Muslim youth from Bosnia. Balkans Youth Link Voices spent a month together, rehearsing, performing, and sharing their vision for a peaceful society. The choral group gave a number of excellent performances, including one at the closing luncheon of the State of the World Forum, where they received a standing ovation for their world premier performance of One Song, Many Voices, by Marcus Williams, written for Nelson Mandela's 2001 initiative on diversity.

Mr. Speaker, the latest endeavor of Balkans Youth Link is an international Youth Link Leadership Institute held in Kosovo in August of this year. The project provided community leaders and students with an opportunity for an exchange of ideas on the crucial issues of conflict resolution, advocacy, negotiation, and leadership in a variety of contexts. The leadership institute was designed to create socially conscious citizens and to motivate them toward leadership and activism.

The hard work and dedication of the director and staff of Youth Link Leadership Institute deserves our commendation. Project Director Erion Veliaj and coordinators Kujesa Bejtullahu and Sagita Muco have been actively involved for several years in humanitarian relief and democracy building activities. In addition to directing Youth Link 2000, Mr. Veliaj led an election mobilization campaign under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, (OSCE) in preparation for the first local elections in Kosovo. In addition he has headed several other major leadership and open society projects involving Balkan youth in other parts of the globe.

Mr. Speaker, some of our colleagues may recall that Ms. Behtullahu had been called the Anne Frank of Kosovo for her "From the War Zone" e-mail correspondence with a California high school student, using the pen name "Adona." Each of these leaders has witnessed the atrocity and anguish of war in the Balkans, and they hope to rebuild their communities by educating future generations about the impact of social activism and democratic politics. Balkans Youth Link coordinators and volunteers, along with their founding Board Members, Frederica Bunge, strive to inspire a sense of self-worth and a realization of individual power and value in society. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the persistent crusade for tolerance and understanding which is stressed by Balkans Youth Link. It is an invaluable contribution to a peaceful future for the Balkans.